

Miltenberger, Molly

From: radon.gal@gmail.com on behalf of patricia lewis <lewis@radonmine.com>
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2013 8:28 AM
To: Miltenberger, Molly
Cc: Tara Mastel
Subject: Support HB 2 - Main Street Program

Dear Committee Members:

Please support the **Main Street Program** as it is included in **House Bill 2**. The Main Street program has provided my community with essential tools we need to sustain and improve our small towns. These tools are not available elsewhere.

With Main Street's help, towns in Jefferson County have had access to the following things:

- Assistance with creating a **funding source for downtown infrastructure improvements** through the establishment of an Urban Renewal District in Whitehall.
- Received funding for an essential study required for a **\$1.5 Million renovation** of the largest building in Whitehall thanks to being directed to the opportunity by the Main Street program.
- **Training for main street business owners** through the annual Main Street Conference.
- **Tailored board training for Boulder** to help revitalize the business and volunteer base.
- **Tailored board training for Whitehall** regarding legalities of operating a non-profit organization.
- **Immediate analysis of fire damaged buildings** by structural engineer after Whitehall's downtown fire of 2009.

As main street is the vital center of each of our rural communities, so is the Montana Main Street Program for those of us working to make our rural communities vital. Please support the continuation of the program.

Thank you for considering support of HB 2

Patricia Lewis

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